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# THE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZER

Official Organ of Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO  
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 1328 SECOND STREET NORTH

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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Stand all as  
one  
Till right  
is done!  
Believe and  
dare and do!

FIVE CENTS

NO. 7

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY AUGUST 28, 1941

## Drivers Tell Blair: "We Demand Elections;" 200 544-CIO Members at Overflow Meeting

### The Drivers Speak Up



### Tobin Loses Again

## Ottumwa Drivers Vote to Join CIO

### Revolt Against Tobin Dictatorship Sweeping Through Iowa—Other Drivers Unions to Follow Local 388

OTTUMWA, IOWA, Aug. 26—The membership of the Drivers Union Local 388 in Ottumwa, Iowa, voted overwhelmingly the night of August 20th to leave Tobin's AFL Teamsters and affiliate with the CIO United Construction Workers Organizing Committee with which Minneapolis Local 544-CIO is affiliated. A CIO charter was immediately issued to the Ottumwa union.

The Ottumwa drivers, who have one of the fastest growing locals in Iowa, take their stand with those who are fighting for democratic industrial unionism in the motor transport industry. The success of the Minneapolis drivers in challenging Tobin's ugly dictatorship machine spurred the Ottumwa drivers to take their progressive step. Many other drivers' unions in Iowa are reported preparing to follow Local 388 into the CIO.

**Tobin Faces Revolt**  
In an effort to stem the growing CIO sentiment of the Iowa drivers, Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters, has placed many locals under receivership in the past few months. This dictatorial action has only increased the dissatisfaction of the men with the AFL.

**Are Blocking Sellout**  
"As to Casey's contracts, we are not sitting idly by, and let-

(Continued on page 4)

### Stream of Witnesses Tell Blair of Blackjack Methods of Tobin's Goons — Prove that Drivers Loyal to 544-CIO, Want Elections

The claim of Tobin's hopheads that they should be certified without elections as the union of the Minneapolis transport workers was blown to bits this week when the drivers, platform men and warehousemen took the witness chair at the hearings on the Tobin petition being conducted by State Conciliator Blair at the Nicollet Hotel.

The Tobin petition turned into a boomerang when Local 544-CIO began Monday morning to present its rebuttal to the Tobin claim.

Instead of bringing in shiny new ledgers with a lot of names as the Tobin gang had done, Local 544-CIO brought in THE WORKERS OF THE INDUSTRY. One after another, as fast as their testimony could be taken, drivers, warehousemen, inside workers, platform men, helpers, stood up before Blair and the AFL "organizers" and mouthpieces, and told the REAL STORY.

About fifty of these workers had already testified during the first two days, including a night session on Tuesday, and hundreds more were ready to testify during the next days.

But no honest observer needed more testimony than has already been presented by those workers, chosen almost at random. Their testimony has established, beyond any possibility of refutation by Tobin's hopheads, two fundamental facts:

1. Only by blackjacks, clubs and baseball bats did the Tobin hopheads "collect" dues and signatures. The very same men from whom the goons had collected stood up and declared that they and their fellow-workers had been beaten, driven off their jobs, pulled off their trucks, and intimidated into surrendering money and signatures to Tobin's gang.

2. Despite all Tobin's thuggery, the transport workers of Minneapolis remain loyal as always to the real Local 544, and demand of Blair and Stassen that an election be held in which the workers can democratically decide which union they wish to represent them.

### Blair Stays Away

These two fundamental facts were proved and proved so that even a Blair can hardly attempt to deny them.

Maybe that's why after the first day Blair turned the hearing over to one of his assistants, one R. J. Oliver. Or maybe Blair decided to stay away after an unimpeachable witness testified how Tobin's agent had boasted that Tobin had Blair to do his bidding.

### Boss Press Silent

The boss press published as little as possible about the damning testimony presented by Local 544-CIO. An attempt to take attention away from the hearing came Wednesday, the third day of the hearing, when Stassen's "three-man commission" made public, and

doubled its membership in the past six months despite disruptive actions of Tobin's machine. We are confident you will grow even faster under the democratic industrial unionism of the CIO. The action of Local 388 points the way to drivers throughout Iowa to join the growing CIO industrial union of motor transport and allied workers. Local 544-CIO is conducting a winning fight against Tobin thugs sent here to work with the bosses in effort to smash our union. Casey's AFL sellout contracts have aroused the whole movement, hundreds of drivers coming over to the CIO. Warmest fraternal greetings to the Ottumwa drivers and allied workers."

### PWOC Votes Aid

No sooner had Tobin received word that his dictatorship had cracked in Ottumwa than he dispatched an army of thugs and hopheads to the town. But Tobin is doomed to defeat even before he starts.

Ottumwa is a CIO fortress. The packinghouse in the town is CIO, and the packinghouse workers have worked closely for months with the drivers' union. Monday afternoon a special meeting of the packinghouse workers was held to deal with Tobinism.

One of the employers stated at the meeting that he knows his men are CIO, even though they wear both AFL and CIO buttons. "The only way to settle this is through an election," he said. "I'm willing to abide by the results of an election."

W. W. Gibson, representative of the Concrete Block Mfg. Assn., said, "I agree that the only way to settle this dispute is through an election. Our committee will tell Stassen and Blair we want this settled and settled at once through an election."

Another conciliation meeting between Local 544-CIO and the industry will be held later this week. The union opposed the 30-day waiting period set by Governor Stassen, and refused to call off its strike notice, stating it had no faith in Blair or Stassen and considered them enemies of democracy in the union movement.

### Blair Needn't Pretend He's Surprised

State Conciliator Blair Blair jumped a foot out of his chair at the Monday afternoon session of the hearing, when one of the witnesses, Arthur McKeown, testified that Tobin's Detroit organizer Red Laughlin had boasted that "Blair is doing what we want him to do."

What's Blair pretending to be surprised about? He's Stassen's stooge, isn't he? And about Stassen, Raw Deal Neal boasted in a letter, which Tobin was indiscreet enough to publish in his July 1941 Teamsters Journal:

"Governor Stassen of Minnesota has promised to do everything within the law to be helpful to us..."

Blair's innocent surprise would go down better if he or his boss had denied Neal's boast when he made it and Tobin printed it.

got?" I said "You got me licked, I'll sign."

"Then I took Jake, who was sick and couldn't walk and brought him to St. Barnabas Hospital. This happened on a Friday night. The next Monday (AFL organizer) George Williams talked to me. There were three or four others with him. George Williams told me I was all through working. I said, 'What can I do?' He said, 'Go down to the AFL at 257 Plymouth and get straightened out. I went down and talked to about five of them in a room. George Williams was there. They said I was spreading CIO propaganda. They tried to induce me to support the AFL. Finally they said: I could go back to work. George Williams said if he caught me at any CIO meeting or talking to any Dunne I would lose my job."

Q. Are you a member of any Union?  
A. Yes, 544-CIO.  
Q. Do you want an election?  
A. I sure do!  
CROSS EXAMINATION BY AFL LAWYER NICHOLS  
Q. Did you see Jake hurt?  
A. No, I saw him after he was hurt.  
Q. How many men came where you were?  
A. About five. One of them was Gene Williams. I didn't know the rest.  
Q. Someone took your CIO button off and put an AFL button on?  
A. Yes.  
Q. And made you sign a paper?  
A. Yes.  
Q. What did it say?  
A. I join of my own free will.  
Q. And you were not?  
A. Not of my free will.

### Driven Off Job

Fred L. Arduer, Job Steward at Werner Transportation, testified as follows:

"On the week of June 16th about 30 men wearing AFL buttons came down to our terminal. I recognized Eddie Blixt. I told Blixt I didn't know if they could talk to the men on the job. I saw more and more AFL men coming so I said, go ahead. I couldn't do anything. He said he was going to talk anyway. He said we had to get in the AFL or we couldn't work. Pretty soon (AFL organizer) Casey came down—I think from Werner's office. He said the only thing to do was to join the AFL. We figured if we didn't sign, we couldn't work."

"The following Saturday five of them came in the dispatcher's office where I was marking up a manifest and told me I was through—Williams was one. I asked what for. He said I was collecting CIO dues. I looked up and saw the five men. He said I could walk off the job peacefully—or else. So I walked off. I tried to

(Continued on page 2)

We Made Minneapolis a Union Town -- - Let's KEEP IT That Way



# Drivers' Testimony Proves Local 544-CIO's Case

(Continued from page 1)

show him my steward's book and Williams grabbed it. I met Joe Stork and he told me to straighten up so I could go to work. So I went up to 257 Plymouth. I talked to Brennan up there. They told me if I wanted to quit the CIO and join the AFL I could go back to work. I collected dues for the CIO up until the AFL organizers came down on the dock.

Q. Are you a member of any Union now?

A. Yes, 544-CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes, sir!

## CROSS EXAMINATION BY AFL LAWYER NICHOLS

Q. You said the first time 30 men came down. Eddie Blixt was there and talked to the men?

A. Yes.

Q. Then Casey came down and talked?

A. Yes.

Q. If they joined the AFL they could work?

A. They were told the only way they could work was to be members of 544-AFL.

Q. Who said that?

A. Casey.

Q. How long did Casey talk?

A. About 25 minutes.

Q. How long did Blixt talk?

A. Very short talk.

Q. Did you know Casey by sight?

A. Yes, he was introduced as Casey to the men.

## Loss of Job Threat

Oscar Carlson, employed at L. W. Northfield Coal and Building Material as a driver testified next:

Q. Were you visited by any men from 544-AFL?

A. Yes, two men came to our yard. One was Ted Olsen.

Q. When?

A. About noon on June 20th.

Q. Did they talk to you?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened?

A. They asked what button I was wearing. They said I had to wear an AFL button or I couldn't work. So I went in and signed a paper and took the AFL button.

Q. Since that time, did you join another Union?

A. Yes, 544-CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes.

Q. Did anything else happen?

A. I was stopped at the office last Saturday, they stopped another driver and followed him to the office.

Q. Who were the men who stopped you?

A. They were AFL men. They told us they were after the driver. I asked what was the matter. One big guy said "What do you care?" I said I was CIO. He said I didn't deliver unless I got straight with the AFL. I said the heck I couldn't and got in my truck and drove away.

## Signed Under Threats

Victor Swanson, employed at Foote Lumber Co., as a mill man, testified next:

Q. Were you a steward on the job?

A. Yes.

Q. After June 9th were you visited by any men?

A. Yes.

Q. When was this?

A. The first part of July.

Q. How many men were there?

A. Five men in one car got out. There were two more cars.

Q. Who were they?

A. They said they were from 544-AFL.

Q. Tell what happened.

A. Five men came up to us and threw a pink slip and said, sign this. I read it and said, "Do I have to?" They said I should sign it or I couldn't work. I looked at the guys and they were big and husky and I thought I might as well stay healthy, so I signed. They got about six or seven to sign.

About two weeks later at the plant around noon we were all at lunch. Three men got out of a car and one man pointed to me and said "There is the man" pointing to me. A guy came over to me and said "You are telling the men to join the CIO. You'll be out of a job." They said then that they wanted to collect dues. I said I wouldn't pay until I knew who represented me. They asked me to tell the men to pay. I told them the men could do what they wanted to do and that I don't tell them what to do. Nobody paid any dues because they felt the same way I do.

(AFL lawyer Nichols moved to strike the last sentence from record. Sustained by Blair.)

Q. Were you visited any more by AFL men?

A. Yes, last Friday they told me that the lumber men wanted to have me organize in the lumber industry. I refused. A little while later some trucks came back with their lumber. The drivers said they couldn't deliver unless they joined the AFL. One of the men was sent out to Carr-Cullen but he came back and said about 30 AFL men were out there and he couldn't deliver. Later in the day the boss, Justice Smith, told me to send the men out and if they were stopped to take the license number.

Q. Did you see cars parked?

A. Yes, three cars. One car followed a truck load back. It had a Michigan license — a Packard car. We got another Minnesota license.

Q. Do you belong to any Union now?

A. I belong to 544-CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. I certainly want an election.

## Pulled Off His Truck

V. E. King, employed at Williams Hardware, member of the union since 1934, testified as follows:

Q. On June 16th at work were you visited by anyone?

A. Yes.

Q. How many?

A. There were cars in the street. Three men talked to me, one was (AFL organizer) Fritz Snyder and the other was (AFL organizer) George O'Brien. I didn't know the third man. There were other cars in the street. Other men came from these cars.

Q. What time was this?

A. 8:30 A. M.

Q. What happened?

A. As I backed into the platform, O'Brien took my arm and said that he came for my steward's kit and that I couldn't drive until I gave it to him. So I gave it to him. Then he said I still couldn't drive until I signed with the AFL. So I signed.

Q. Did you sign of your own free will?

A. No, I signed because I had to. He said I still couldn't drive until I went to 257 Plymouth to get straightened out. I said I wanted to go to the CIO and see what was what. The CIO said nobody had the right to stop me. So I went back to work. About 30 minutes later I was stopped in the middle of the street. I recognized one of the men as (AFL organizer) George Williams. They all had AFL buttons on.

Q. What was said?

A. They asked me why in the hell wasn't I up to the AFL office to get straight. They told me to pull the truck over to the curb. They said that I should get the hell out of the truck and leave it there and that an AFL man would drive it. They said I would not work in Minneapolis again if I did not sign up with the AFL.

BLAIR: Who said that?

A. Williams said it. He asked me about an article that I had written in the paper that I didn't think the Committee of 100 was living up to good union principles by having meetings outside the hall.

Q. Did any employees see you pulled off the truck?

A. Yes—Chester Post, Kenneth Abrams, Elmer Hohenstein, Pete Winters.

Q. Has anything happened to you since that time?

A. Yes, they told me I could continue to drive if I kept away from the CIO and their meetings. They said I had a good record, that I could be watched. One night I was followed clear to Midway. I recognized the men as AFL men but didn't know their names.

Q. What Union do you belong to now?

A. 544-CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. I do.

Q. Did you lose any time?

A. I lost a day or about three-quarters of a day.

## CROSS EXAMINATION BY AFL LAWYER NICHOLS

Q. Are you a steward?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you paid any dues to AFL since June 9th?

A. I paid the month I was pulled off—about June 16th.

Q. When did the AFL take charge?

A. It was after the CIO was formed.

Q. Were you a steward?

A. Yes.

Q. How long?

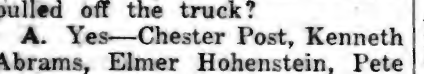
A. Since 1934.

Q. Were you short on your collections?

A. No, the AFL started a rumor that I was \$20 short. I called the AFL headquarters and talked to Brennan and told him that the rumor should be stopped immediately or I'd take some action.

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Q. Were you short on your collections?

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Q. Did you see cars parked?

## MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

### Goons Drive Him From Job

William Beyer, father of 13 children, driver for W. E. Stanchfield, testified:

"Eddie Blixt came down to Minneapolis Iron Store and wanted my steward's kit. I told him I turned it in to the CIO. He said, 'Well, I'm gonna take you off the job. If you come up to 257, I won't.' Then three fellows met me last Monday or Tuesday and asked to see my book. They said I had 15 days in which to pay dues to the AFL. Friday I went to make a delivery and some fellows said I could not make any more deliveries until I paid up my dues. I went back to Minneapolis Iron Store. I had about 24 deliveries left. The two men followed me back. They were AFL buttons. They told Walter Girard, one of the bosses, that I wasn't to drive a truck until I paid up my dues. 'I called the CIO and they referred me to CIO Attorney Gilbert Carlson, who called the company. The same time Williams called Girard. Williams wanted to know which side of the fence I was on. Williams said I would not go to work until I paid AFL dues. I went to work the next day and three men told me I could make no more deliveries. They were AFL buttons. They told Girard I could not make any more deliveries. And I am out of work up until the present time.'

CIO ATTORNEY CARLSON: Some arrangement could be made so this man could go back to work as he has a large family to support and wants to work.

BLAIR: I don't know what the conditions are. The conciliator has no judicial or police powers.

CIO ATTORNEY: We don't say you can force anyone to put him back to work but we think your weight would do some good.

BLAIR: It would be unfair to the other parties to do anything in this matter since I don't know all the details. Suppose we make this a special issue after the hearing.

CIO ATTORNEY: As far as you know, your employer is willing for you to go back to work?

A. Yes, sir.

(Motion by AFL lawyer Nichols to strike out all of CIO attorney's appeal. Sustained by Blair.)

### Threatened by Hopheads

Howard L. Peterson, Mpls. Cold Storage, employed there for nine years, testified:

"AFL organizers Gene Williams, Fritz Snyder, Glen Smith—I don't know the names of the others—about 50 or 75 all wearing AFL buttons, came down. They wanted me to take my CIO button off and sign an AFL petition. I told them my CIO button would stay on until I got my vote. The AFL men said 'Hell, you can see they're all CIO. Either join the AFL or get off the job.' They gave us a few pushes. We knew if we went off the job we couldn't get back on. We went to the dressing room and talked it over and decided rather than lose our jobs we had better sign. We signed and paid June and July dues. I want to belong to the CIO. I want an election.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY AFL LAWYER NICHOLS

Q. Were you pushed around?

A. Yes.

Q. By whom?

A. I don't know—my back was turned—I didn't see who, there was a crowd of 50 or 75.

Q. So far as you know, some-

one might have been going through the crowd?

A. They were going pretty fast then!

EXAMINATION BY CIO ATTORNEY CARLSON

Q. Did you vote on any new agreement?

A. I attended a meeting of the AFL. A contract was presented. I don't know if there was a vote on it.

Q. Have you been visited since by the AFL?

A. They use it for a playground. Four, 10 and 20 men came down almost every day.

Clement C. Rogers, truck driver at Colonial Warehouse for six years, testified:

Q. Prior to June 9th what Union did you belong to?

A. Since 1934 I have belonged to 544.

"About June 12th at 9:20 a. m. I was loading the truck at Universal Carloading. AFL organizer Gene Williams came up. He said I was all done. I asked why. I was wearing a CIO button. He said it's an AFL job and you can't work here. I saw Fritz Snyder and I knew his reputation so I kept quiet. Snyder said I was all done. He reached over and took my CIO button off.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. I certainly do.

Leslie Bornfield, at Mpls. House Furnishing since June 1935, testified:

"On about June 23rd, I was in the shipping room when these AFL organizers came in. They said we are going to get a contract without a strike. I asked if we'd have to vote to elect our officers or if Casey and others would run it. They said we'd have an election after it was straightened out. I didn't want to sign any paper for the AFL. They said look out in the alley and you'll see why you should. There were about 15 men wearing AFL buttons out there."

Q. Do you want an election?

A. I do.

### Beaten by Hopheads

James Leary, employed at Serley Sash and Door for 3 years, testified:

"The last day of June the AFL organizers talked to the shipping clerk. They told him to tell me to report to this hall by 5 p. m. or I couldn't work. The note was signed by Blixt. I did not go to the AFL hall.

"Then the shipping clerk told me that Serley told him I couldn't go to work. Serley said that the AFL called him and told him I couldn't work. About 8:30 Serley said the AFL called him and said I had to go to the AFL hall. He said he wasn't going to send the truck out and get it damaged. He made this statement in the presence of Harry DeBoer. The next day Serley said I could go back to work. About 12:30 I counted about eight cars with about 40 or 50 men and they came and told me I couldn't work. Blixt stepped up and said I

couldn't work, I would be foolish to pull a truck out and get my head beat off. I was afraid to leave because they might follow me home.

"I was off the job from then until July 17th. I reported then at 9 a. m. I made one delivery and Fritz Snyder and Gene Williams drove up. They followed me and talked to the carpenters on the job to get them to refuse the load. The carpenters said they had no instructions from the union. I had to take the load back.

"The following Tuesday I was making a delivery. I had a door and a mirror to deliver. I was writing down some orders the carpenters wanted. I saw two men outside but paid no attention. One said, 'Hya, buddy. You at Serley's?' I said 'Yes,' and wham, I got hit and knocked down. By the names and pictures in the paper I recognized them as Beeler and Buckley. They had their license covered by rags. I got up and went on with my deliveries.

"Last Monday, a week ago, Snyder, Casey and Red O'Laughlin came about 2:30 just as I backed in at the dock. They said 'Are you squared up with the AFL?' I said, 'No.' They said they were there to follow me and turn my loads back. I told them I couldn't afford to lose any more work. I took their button."

Q. What Union do you belong to now?

A. I belong to the CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes I do.

Arthur McKeown, Thompson Lumber yard man, testified:

"About two weeks after June 9th, there were 3 AFL organizers, one said he was an International Organizer. They said 'We're from the AFL and we're here to sign you up. If you aren't AFL you can't work here.' The International man said that I should sign the slip. I refused. That afternoon three other men wearing AFL buttons came in the yard. I was helping load. They told my partner to quit working with me. They told me I couldn't drive the truck until I got the CIO button off my cap. They told me to get off the truck and get out of the yard and went up to the boss to tell him to fire me. They argued for a while and then the same man said I had until tomorrow noon to sign up or Detroit organizer Red O'Laughlin would come back with some men to close up the yard.

"Last Tuesday Fritz Snyder, Red O'Laughlin and a few others came in and started discussing contracts they signed. I told them I didn't think it was a fair contract. Also that I knew the CIO leaders would never force a contract like that down our throats.

"Then Red O'Laughlin said 'I know Farrell Dobbs and his friends. They are the best Union men I know but Farrell Dobbs was in the Socialist Workers Party. It's no use fighting the AFL. The State Labor Conciliator is on our

side and is ruling out the CIO all the way down the line."

BLAIR: (flustered): This man actually said that?

A. Your honor, I swore under oath that he said that and I still say it. I also asked him, "Do you think you will ever get this set-

tle without an election?" He said, "Well, you aren't going to get an election. We have the majority." I told him I was willing to bet any amount of money we would outvote the AFL 8 to 1 in the lumber industry. He said, "That's right, but we will get the men later on."

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes I do.

Conrad Erickson, employed as a truck driver by G. M. Lumber company for the years, testified:

"On August 19th I was on a public highway by Frederick, Alex Olson and another all wearing AFL buttons. I told me I had to sign up if I ed to deliver lumber to the ing trades. I refused. They me to go to a meeting t day. The next day four were parked in a car whee ed to pull out. I talked der. Two trucks had been back. They had followed before. They said I had up with the AFL or I deliver any more lumber called it over and decided better pay them so we could working. I did not do it ily but under pressure.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes.

## TUESDAY MORNING SESSION

### Fired for CIO Loyalty

Leonard Bakula, warehouseman at Booth Cold Storage, testified:

"On June 20th about fifty or sixty men wearing AFL buttons visited the plant at about 9:30 a. m. I recognized (AFL organizers) Glen Smith and George Williams. I was working on the 7th floor. The foreman called me downstairs. The rest of the employees were on the elevator and the foreman took us to the main floor where 50 or 60 men surrounded all of us on the elevator.

"Smith was the spokesman. He said: 'You have to take off your CIO buttons and put on AFL buttons, or get out. You're all through here.' We asked for a little time to talk it over. Finally, they gave us 15 minutes to talk it over. We went downstairs and decided to call our union headquarters. We decided that Frank Norman and I would go up to the CIO headquarters to see what should be done. We left the back way.

"Later we went back to go to work. Mr. Finney, the warehouse manager, said: 'You're all through. You are not going to work here.' We took our clothes and left. At the union hall I saw Frank Kolinsky. He was all beat-up. His lip and eye were all cut up and his face swollen on one side."

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes I do.

Frank A. Norman, employed at Booth Cold Storage, next testified, corroborating the account given by Bakula.

### Driven from Work

Erling Nelson, employed at Wheeler-Barnes for eight years, until June 23, 1941, for the past eight years as hydraulic pressman, testified. Prior to June 9th he was a member of Local 359, AFL Warehouse Union, and is now a member of Local 544-CIO, Warehouse Section:

"About 10:30 in the morning of June 23rd, the receiving clerk told me that a bunch of AFL men came into the plant and stopped loading. I saw about 15 or 20 wearing AFL buttons. I talked to their leader and he wanted me to call the men to a meeting. He said: 'None of your men are go-

ing to load trucks.' They allowed one truck to go out with half a load.

"About 11 o'clock between 100 and 150 AFL men invaded the plant and talked to Mr. Barnes. Right after, the foreman, Harry Larson, called all the men to a meeting on the main floor. I followed Larson and told the men to stay on the job and not go to any meeting. On the second floor about 17 AFL men surrounded me and told me to watch my step or it would be too bad. They forced me down on the main floor.

"They told us we would have to sign if we wanted to work. I told the men not to sign. Some of the AFL men stated they were from Detroit, Cleveland and other cities. One of them doubled up his fists and said: 'If you're looking for trouble, you'll get it. Fellows like you can disappear, you know. You can't work here anymore. You're all through. Better get your clothes and get out.' About 50 per cent of the employees are women.

"The AFL men followed me up to the dressing room. On the way out I met my sister who works in the plant and told her she'd better sign so she could keep working. I said: 'Later on, you can vote the way you want, when we have a secret election under the state or the government.' A big fellow said to my sister: 'You can't sign that either. You'd better get out.' So she got her clothes and left with me. On June 18th we had a secret ballot at the plant and we voted to go CIO.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes I do.

Conrad Erickson, employed as a truck driver by G. M. Lumber company for the years, testified:

"On August 19th I was on a public highway by Frederick, Alex Olson and another all wearing AFL buttons. I told me I had to sign up if I ed to deliver lumber to the ing trades. I refused. They me to go to a meeting t day. The next day four were parked in a car whee ed to pull out. I talked der. Two trucks had been back. They had followed before. They said I had up with the AFL or I deliver any more lumber called it over and decided better pay them so we could working. I did not do it ily but under pressure.

Q. Do you want an election?

A. Yes.

Conrad Erickson, employed as a truck driver by G. M. Lumber company for the years, testified:

"On August 19th I was on a public highway by Frederick, Alex Olson and another all wearing AFL buttons. I told me I had to sign up if I ed to deliver lumber to the ing trades. I refused. They me to go to a meeting t day. The next day four were parked in a car whee ed to pull out. I talked der. Two trucks had been back. They had followed before. They said I had up with the AFL or I deliver any more lumber called it over and decided better pay



# Can Answer to Tobin's Attack on the 1934 Drivers Strikes

## TUESDAY MORNING, MORE

(Continued from page 2)  
 "I was talking to him over the phone. After about 6 or 7 minutes the AFL came down and said: 'Time's either wear our button or get out.' Art Josephson, steward, asked the boss if he wanted to get out. The boss said: 'Oh, I know.' We asked for more time. We were told: 'You either sign now or get out. We want to replace you.' So we signed. The men elected me steward. The AFL kept pestering me. I said: 'I am a CIO steward.' Do you want an election? Yes sir.

On cross-examination by Nichols there is a contract now? Some say there is, some say there isn't. We haven't seen any.

Oscar Halvorsen, employed by Aslesen Wholesale Grocery since 1934, as an order filler, testified: "About June 23rd at 3 p. m. about 12 men came into the plant about 30 stayed out in automobiles in the alley. They were wearing AFL buttons. [AFL organizers] George Williams and Harris were there. One of them said: 'I want to trade that

button for a good one.' I said: 'No go.' I took the elevator to the third floor. Two other employees told me: 'They're coming to get you.' I was met by 12 men. They said: 'Sign here.' I asked: 'What will happen if I don't sign?' Pete said: 'You tell him, Red.' Red said: 'We'll just take you right off the job.' I said: 'In that case I'll sign.' I'll admit I was upset and I didn't read the paper. I told them I was signing under protest.

Q. Do you want an election?  
 A. Yes.

Laurist Rommerdahl, employed by Chippewa Spring Water Company for the past 27 years as a truck loader, testified:  
 "I don't remember the date after June 9th when four men came to the plant and told us to sign. I said: 'I am CIO and I don't like to sign.' I didn't pay dues in June or July because I was waiting for an election. We were told that if we didn't pay up in the AFL, we would have to get out. So I paid dues to the AFL. I want to belong to the CIO."  
 Q. Do you want an election?  
 A. Yes I do.

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The following men gave testimony at the session Tuesday afternoon, August 26, 1941:

### James Gave Him AFL Button

James Barber, employed at Muir Wholesale Fruit & Supply for past five years:  
 On June 20th about 150 to 200 men came down to the warehouse. I had finished my run about

10 a. m. A bunch of men pulled a car in front of the truck and stopped me. In the warehouse I recognized [AFL Organizer] Blixt. They told me to sign a petition for the AFL. I didn't sign anything. I checked in. They still pestered me to sign. They were all wearing AFL buttons. I figured it would be best for my health to sign.

"The day before, I had worn a CIO button. My boss, Michaelson, gave me an AFL button. He told me I'd better wear it because he had word they were going to pull all the CIO men off the job. I did not sign the petition voluntarily. I was stopped again since then, about a week and a half later, at Merchants Cold Storage, by three men wearing AFL buttons. They asked for my book. I

had paid dues to the AFL the day before because my boss told me he had written a letter to Sid Brennan and was going to fire me. I was leary about getting fired, so I paid my dues to the AFL. I want to be a member of the CIO. I want an election."

### Blackjack "Organizers"

Arthur Schirmers, employed at Red Owl for the past six years, now a member of Local 544-AFL "by force," testified:  
 "On June 20th at the warehouse about noon all of 50 men came down. I recognized [AFL Organizer] Frank Androff. The others were AFL buttons. They made everybody sign a form. We didn't pay any attention to what it was. They had blackjacks on them. I saw about a dozen blackjacks. We decided to sign. They grabbed some of the boys by the arm and took them over and made them sign. [AFL Organizer] Red O'Loughlin was down there Monday. We argued about the men being dissatisfied with the contract. We had to sign the petition to save our own neck. I WANT AN ELECTION."

### Ballbat "Organizers"

Eldred Phyle is an inside worker at Booth Cold Storage. He testified:

"I was working on the main floor. All at once a gang of guys including George Williams came in and said: 'You have to come back into the AFL or get off the job.' A bunch of them were swinging ballbats. Williams got the boss, who was very eager to go, to run through the plant and get all the men together. The AFL gang waved clubs and didn't say much. They said there were plenty of men outside who wanted work if we didn't want to join the AFL. We asked for time to think it over, but they said that we had to join. There wasn't much to do so we signed up. We were short of men in our department, so I asked the boss to put a few men to work from the group outside. The outsiders said: 'Hell, no, we don't want to work.'"

"Sometime later, Glen Smith was talking to me. The boss came by and asked if I had my AFL book. About August 11th, four more AFL guys, including Tom McKee, came down and asked how many men belonged to the CIO. I told them that at least 10 or 12 were wearing CIO buttons. He said: 'Why did you put that CIO button on?' I said I didn't put the CIO button on. Joe Casey put that CIO button on me. Mr. Neal took it off once, but Casey put it back on, when he showed us that contract that isn't even a labor contract."

CIO Attorney Shama: Your witness, Mr. Nichols: What will I do with him?  
 But after a while Mr. Nichols proceeded to cross-examine Phyle.

Q. Did they all have ballbats or blackjacks?

A. They had both.

Q. How many blackjacks?

A. What is a blackjack?

Nichols: It is pretty well defined in the trade. (He then proceeded to give a scientific description of a blackjack.)

Phyle: It doesn't matter what it looks like, if I am going to get hit with it.

A. Well, I didn't figure a gang of men with clubs came down just to stand around. (Much laughter, and Nichols stopped his cross-questioning.)

### Beaten Up by Tobin's Hopheads

Jake Cooper, employed at Werner Transportation up to June 20th, testified as follows:

"On June 19th a group of 40 to 50 men wearing AFL buttons came on the Werner dock. I recognized [AFL organizer] Gene Williams, Vergil Paine, Joe Marco, Frank Johnson, Pat Patterson. I was checking in some bills for the night dispatcher. Gene Williams said: 'You're all through, Jake. Check out.' I said: 'O. K.' I tried to finish checking in my bills. Williams said: 'You heard me, check out.' I said: 'O. K.' and walked away. Joe Marco was standing in my way, so I walked around him.

"Just then somebody struck me. It was Glen Smith. I must have turned. The bunch of AFL men rushed in and grabbed my arms. They slugged me. They wrenched my arms. I couldn't fall or protect myself. I walked into the dispatcher's office and said to the girl, Lillian: 'Look at what the AFL storm-troopers have done.' I tried to stop the bleeding with cold water in a lavatory.

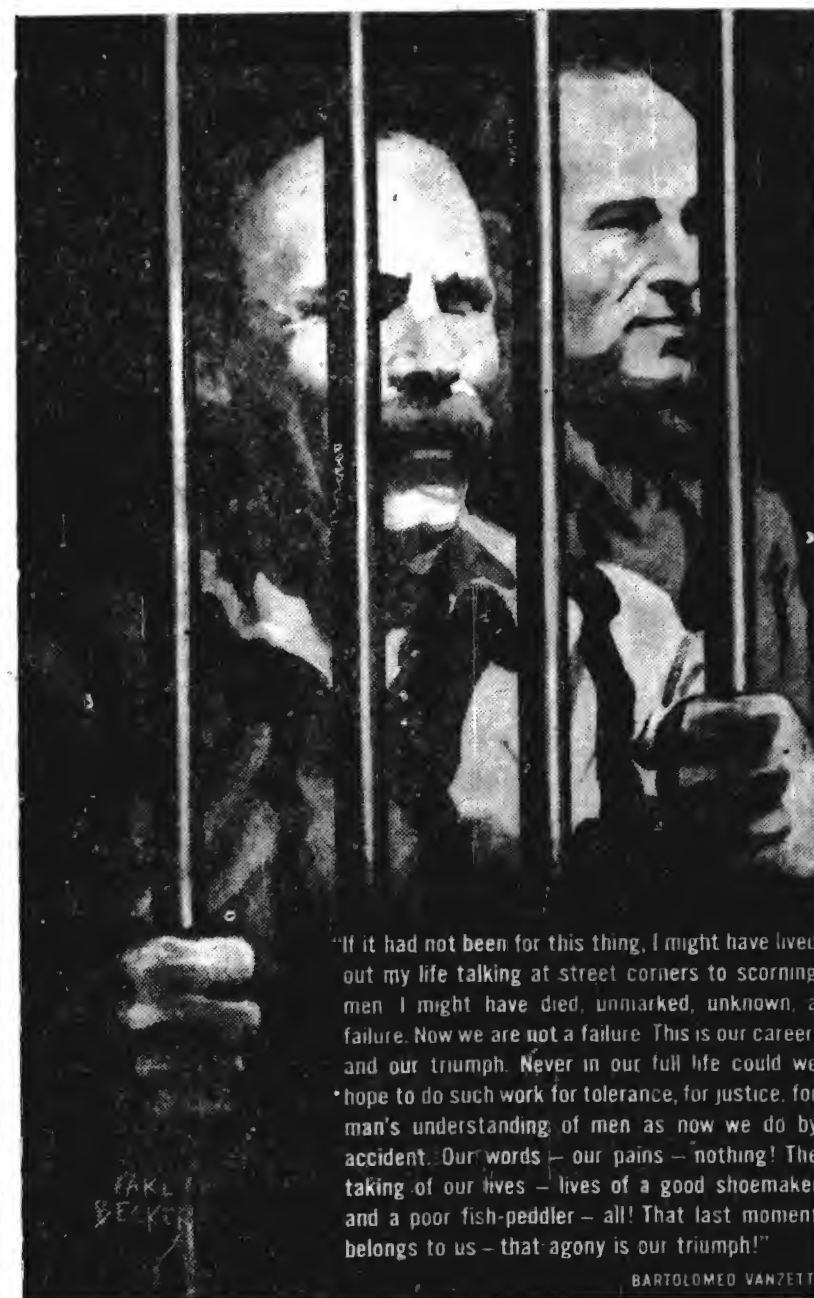
"Joe Stork tried to help me stop the bleeding. The AFL goons came in and told Joe Stork: 'You're all through.' [AFL organizer] Joe Wieneke reached for his pocket. . . . Stork said: 'I guess I'm licked. I'll sign with the AFL.' After Stork signed, he asked them: 'Why did you do this?' I was still bleeding.

"I went to St. Barnabas hospital with Stork. I don't remember very well what happened. I guess I was semi-conscious. I stayed there for six days. I was under a doctor's care until August 15th. I WANT AN ELECTION."

Norman Rhodes, DeSoto Creamery and Produce, is an order-filler on the city desk. He testified:  
 "About June 20th, 25 AFL men came into the creamery about 10:30 a. m. Two of them told me to get off the job, that I was all through. Two days earlier I had been offered an AFL button and I said I already had one. They took me to the cold storage department, and made me sign an AFL affidavit or something. I didn't read it. They took hold of me and said to sign or get off the job. I WANT AN ELECTION."

Harry Grundeen, of Foote Lumber and Coal, has been employed for nine years as a driver. He testified:  
 "On August 21st I was followed by a car. Two AFL men got out. I showed them I was CIO. They said I couldn't deliver lumber if I was CIO. I asked Johnson, the carpenter where I was delivering,

## We Remember



August is a month to remember the martyred dead of the working-class, victims of the greed and injustice of the employing class.

In the July-August 1934 strike, two Minneapolis workers gave their lives to the cause of unionism. Henry Ness and John Belor fell before the guns of the cops, sent against the Local 544 pickets by the Citizens Alliance. Workers of this city will never forget Ness and Belor.

August was also the month that claimed the lives of two whose names are known by workers the world over—Bartolomeo Vanzetti and Nicola Sacco, the two Italian immigrants and militant workers who were framed by the Massachusetts courts and electrocuted on August 23, 1927. Sacco was killed at 19 minutes after midnight. Vanzetti died six minutes later.

Millions of workers the world over participated in the protest movement to save Sacco and Vanzetti. Tens of thousands demonstrated in London. There were huge demonstrations before the American consulates in all the capital cities of the world. Strikes and mass demonstrations reached huge proportions. But capitalist "justice" triumphed and they killed Sacco and Vanzetti.

We remember Ness and Belor. We remember Sacco and Vanzetti. We shall avenge their deaths by building a mighty labor movement that will bring justice and a better life for all who toil. That is the only monument our martyrs would want.

If he would take lumber from a CIO driver. The carpenter said he didn't care if it was AFL or CIO. I started to unload; the carpenter was on the phone. Then he came out and said I couldn't deliver it if I was CIO. I drove away and saw I was being followed, so I called the company. I finished my deliveries that afternoon. The carpenters said they'd take lumber from either AFL or CIO drivers. I WANT AN ELECTION."

Ivan Parr, employed at Booth Cold Storage, is a member of 544-CIO, testified as follows:  
 "At least 50 men from the AFL came down. They were AFL buttons and said they were AFL organizers. The foreman got all of us in the elevator. On the main floor the AFL organizers surrounded us and said to sign up or else. We asked a few minutes to think it over. Finally we decided there wasn't much else to do, so we signed up. I pay dues to the CIO. I want an election."

**Saw Blackjacks**  
 (After a recess Parr was recalled to the stand. He continued):  
 "I stopped to read the slip. Someone shoved me and said: 'You don't have to read it, go on and sign.' I saw the AFL organizers carrying blackjacks, a long stick, and a length of hose. I signed."

**CROSS-EXAMINATION BY NICHOLS:**  
 Q. You saw blackjacks?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. You saw a length of hose?  
 A. Yes.  
 Q. You saw a stick?  
 A. Yes. About three feet long and an inch and a half thick.

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**BY CARLOS HUDSON**  
 In the desperate fight of the Tobin machine against Local 544-CIO and the drivers of Minneapolis, Tobin's agents have reached the point where they must attack the very foundation of unionism in Minneapolis—the great 1934 drivers' strikes!

In the August 15th issue of Tobin's *Minnesota Teamster*, page 8, Sellout Casey calls the 1934 strikes a "hoax." And he goes on:

"In that strike the Teamsters of Minneapolis were plunged into a long and bloody struggle without the sanction of the International. They lost 9 1/2 weeks' pay and ended up with a wage increase of only 2 1/2¢ an hour," Casey writes with his poison pen.

Did you ever see the likes of the gall of this scurvy-headed, oyster-eyed, lying-mouthed, scaly-necked, pot-bellied, boss-minded blatherskite?

Sellout Casey doesn't understand, or pretends not to understand, why the working class of Minneapolis waged the strikes of 1934. The wage increases and improvements in conditions that stemmed from that strike were bounteous, but all that came later, together with many other fruits of union victory.

### A STRUGGLE FOR UNIONISM

The great strikes of 1934 were essentially a struggle for the recognition of unionism in the major industry of Minneapolis, hitherto unorganized. The strikes were fought over the issue of whether the Minneapolis union movement was to smash the Open Shop regime of the labor-hating Citizens Alliance, or whether the Open Shop was to destroy root and branch the workers' movement.

That was the issue in 1934. That was the cause for which Henry Ness and John Belor laid down their lives. That was the battle cry that mobilized the entire Minneapolis working class and inspired them to their glorious victory.

The year 1934 was the turning point in the lives of tens of thousands of Minneapolis working class families.

In the summer of 1934 the 25-year-old record of Open Shop domination by the Citizens Alliance was shattered to bits, and the foundations for the mighty Minneapolis union movement laid.

### MINNEAPOLIS BEFORE THE 1934 VICTORIES

Eight years ago the Minneapolis union movement was deep in the doldrums. No strike had been won for ten years, ever since the AFL "purged" the Central Labor Union of "reds" in 1924. With the low ebb in industry, whole sections of the union movement, such as the building trades, had dwindled to mere skeletons. The General Drivers Union Local 574 had only a few dozen members and had been inactive for years.

The strike victories of 1934 energized, transformed and set upon its feet the entire Minneapolis union movement. Insofar as this progressive transformation can be attributed to individuals, it must be attributed to those men who since 1934 have stood at the head of the drivers union, and today lead Local 544-CIO. And that's why Tobin's agents are trying to wipe out the last seven years of Minneapolis unionism.

The men who built the union in 1934, who led the coal strike of February, 1934; who led the workers in May, 1934, when the union's mass picket line battled first the entire Minneapolis police force and then whipped an army of 5,000 special deputies; whose courage and devotion led to victory in the 34-day strike of July-August, 1934, where the union, with the backing of the entire labor movement, picketed rings around the national guardsmen and clinched victory—these are the men of Local 544-CIO.

### DAWN OF A NEW DAY

A new day dawned for the Minneapolis workers in 1934. Union membership in the city grew from 30,000 in 1933 to over 60,000. The average weekly wage of drivers rose steadily from \$11 to \$33. Weekly hours were cut from 66 to about 44. Workers for the first time in their lives enjoyed paid vacations, seniority, job protection. Inspired by the drivers' strike victories, scores of new unions were organized.

These are the facts about the glorious 1934 strikes, facts known to every Minneapolis toiler.

Today as in 1934 the Minneapolis union movement is in crisis. Today the drivers again confront a life-and-death struggle with the bosses.

Today, too, as in 1934 Tobin and his agents are lined up with the bosses AGAINST the drivers of Minneapolis, against Local 544-CIO.

Just as Tobin's attacks on Local 574 furnished the bosses with ammunition in 1934, so the attacks by Tobin and Casey against 544-CIO today are utilized by the bosses as weapons against the jobs and wages of the drivers.

Before Tobin could ever succeed in imposing his dictatorship upon the Minneapolis labor movement, he would first have to destroy the great tradition of struggle and militancy which the Minneapolis union movement wears like a badge upon its breast. Tobin and Casey must rewrite the very history of the city, and that is what they are trying to do.

Casey has already made common cause with the finks in their book suit against Local 544. Now he attacks the 1934 strikes, he dares to tell the workers of Minneapolis those strikes were a "hoax."

Casey even dares to raise the question that the 1934 strikes were carried on "without the sanction of the International," that Tobin gave no strike benefits or support to the Minneapolis strikes.

We're glad you brought that up, Casey. You are damned well right Tobin didn't sanction those strikes. You are damned well right Tobin opposed the strikes. You are damned well right the strikers got nothing from Tobin, except savage abuse.

IF THE DRIVERS HAD WAITED FOR TOBIN TO SANCTION THOSE STRIKES, THE DRIVERS OF MINNEAPOLIS WOULD STILL BE WORKING FOR \$13 A WEEK, AND THERE WOULD BE NO UNION MOVEMENT IN THIS CITY.

Fortunately, the drivers understood Tobin well. Not for one minute did they ever look to Tobin for aid. They knew he would aid the bosses AGAINST the drivers. And that's exactly what Tobin did. His attacks on Local 574 so pleased the Citizens Alliance that for days the bosses reprinted Tobin's articles in huge ads in the daily press.

### TOBIN NEVER FORGOT

The beating that Local 574 gave the bosses and Tobin must have been rankling in Tobin's breast these seven years.

Tobin never forgave this union for demonstrating to the drivers that they don't need Tobin on their side to win victories. Tobin is not only a worthless ally, he is a traitor to labor. It is AGAINST AND DESPITE false leaders like Tobin that the American workers forge ahead in the struggle for a better life.

The mud and slime peddled by the Tobin machine can never besmirch the magnificent tradition of 1934 from the memories of the workers of Minneapolis. Too many workers bled and suffered to win those strikes. Too many thousands of families gained from those strikes.

The tradition of 1934 haunts Tobin and Casey. That tradition of honest fighting unionism confronts Casey wherever he turns. That tradition dooms his foul union-smashing conspiracy to defeat. That tradition will drive him and his hopheads like whipped cuds from this city.

The 1934 strikes made Minneapolis a union town. The struggle waged today will make Minneapolis a CIO town.

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## Industrial Organizer

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Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNN

### AFL Organizer Beeler

Our readers will recall that oily Mr. Goldberg, Tobin's mouthpiece here, finally admitted that the nurse-attacking, farmer-shooting, alderman-slugging, marihuana-smoking Buckley and Smith were on Tobin's payroll. But he tried to claim that the ringleader of this particular mob, Beeler, was "just a friend" of the Tobin hopheads and was not connected with the Tobin payroll.

Now, however, a witness in the hearing this week before Blair has identified Beeler and Buckley as the thugs who beat him when he refused to pay "dues" to them. Lie No. 1,483 recorded against Mr. Goldberg.

Incidentally, what has happened to the federal narcotics charge which was supposed to be placed against the Beeler boys when they were caught with marihuana in their possession? Is this just another case of the federal authorities doing a little favor for their friend Tobin?

### That Tobin Contract

When a crook is caught red-handed and hasn't got a thing to say in his own defense, his lawyers register in court what is known as a "general denial." It's general because he can't say anything specific.

That's the situation of Tobin's hopheads and Quislings. We published last week the contract they signed with some of the bosses and which the hophead-Quisling gang didn't dare publish in their own rag. Even though we've already published their contract, the Tobin mob still don't dare to publish it, because to do so would simply be to add further proof to our charges, for they would have to print the verbatim text that we have already printed. Rather than do that, the Tobin gang continues not to print the contract.

Instead, in this—August 22nd—issue of their Minnesota Teamster, they enter a typical crook's "general denial" of our charges. We published a full-page analysis, point by point, of the Tobin contract. All they can answer is that there are "wild and unfounded rumors!"

Instead of answering our very specific analysis of their contract, the Tobin gang writes an editorial attacking—the 1934 strikes which made Minneapolis a union town.

Instead of answering our last week's analysis of the key to their contract—Section 9, the arbitration clause which provides for arbitrating away everything under the sun—the Tobin gang talk about the fact that Tobin didn't pay strike benefits in 1934!

Instead of talking about the things the workers want settled specifically—wages and hours, job protection and all the other things which we have always settled specifically in negotiations and contracts—the Tobin gang talk about "Americanism." Truly, as the famous Doctor Johnson said, patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel when he can't talk about anything else.

Talk about the contract, you Tobin hopheads and Quislings! Explain why you haven't printed it to this day! Explain why you can't answer our specific analysis of your contract! Yes, just try and explain, you mutts!

### Who Is Mathew Woll?

No labor bureaucrat has a blacker or more revolting record in the labor movement than Mathew Woll, vice-president of the AFL, who heads the committee designated by the AFL executive council in Chicago to "purge" the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

Woll for decades has represented the extreme right wing of the American Federation of Labor, being way over on the bosses' side of the fence.

He is much more the business man than the labor leader. For years he was acting president of the National Civic Federation, the company-union setup sponsored by Mark Hanna, notorious Republican skate of a generation ago.

Woll served in this set-up together with the Morgans and the duPonts. The National Civic Federation represented a bloc between Big Business and reactionary labor leaders, aimed against everything progressive in the union movement.

Woll was acting president of this group until the 1935 convention of the AFL in Atlantic City, when John L. Lewis forced through a resolution ordering all labor representatives to get out and stay out of the National Civic Federation.

Woll is president of the small craft-union Photo-Engravers, which he runs with an iron hand on a no-strike policy whereby he gains small concessions from the bosses at the expense of the other printing trades unions.

Woll's real gravy bowl is the Union Labor Life Insurance company, founded in 1925. As head of this insurance company, Woll rooks the labor movement unmercifully.

Like Tobin, he is a prominent figure in the Democratic Party.

As is well known in labor circles, Woll for years aspired to the presidency of the AFL, and had an understanding with old Sam Gompers that when the latter retired Woll would be his successor. For years Woll was known as Gompers' "Crown Prince." The United Mine Workers, however, blocked Woll's ambition and placed William Green in the president's chair as Gompers' successor.

The oldest member of organized labor cannot remember ever seeing Mathew Woll walk a picket line. However, on many occasions he has taken the side of the bosses in strike situations. During the great Passaic textile strike, he earned the hatred and contempt of the workers by openly opposing the collection of strike funds, and defending the textile bosses.

This boss-minded insurance agent has the gall to set himself up as judge over the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

# Drivers Demand Sharp Increase in Wage To Cope With the Soaring Rise in Price

In the Line of Fire



## 1,200 Men Attend 544-CIO Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

ting these sellout agreements take effect. We have filed charges of unfair labor practice against every employer who signs with the AFL. We know the bosses, Blair and Tobin engineered these contracts in an effort to stampede you back into the AFL. But they are not going to get away with their sellout.

"Your leaders cannot win this battle alone. Your lawyers cannot win this battle. YOU ARE THE MEN WHO ARE GOING TO WIN THIS FIGHT. Sign the blue application cards in the union. Wear your 544-CIO buttons. Pay your 544-CIO dues. Volunteer to testify to the truth before Blair. We have subpoenas so that your jobs won't be jeopardized by your testimony."

**CIO Never Loses**  
The next speaker was Frank Barnhart, personal representative of John L. Lewis and Regional Director of the UMWOC.

"I bring you fraternal greetings from the national CIO and from the other 44 national affiliates of the CIO," Barnhart said.

"With the solidarity of you men, victory will surely be ours. The CIO has never lost a war in its life. William Green and Daniel J. Tobin know this well."

"Last Wednesday evening the Drivers Union in Ottumwa voted unanimously to leave the AFL and join the CIO. Many more Drivers Unions are preparing to come over to the CIO. We are going to keep Tobin so busy in all parts of the country, he won't know where the lightning will strike next."

"On August 13th I sent out a circular letter advising CIO unions throughout the nation of our fight and appealing for aid. Many contributions have come in. I was particularly glad tonight, in reading some of the letters, to see that the president of the United Mine Workers in Alabama has sent in \$100. You should have no doubts but that this fight will be won."

"I believe the United Mine Workers Union is the greatest union in the world. But I say, your leaders are the equal of the Miners leaders when it comes to knowing how to fight and win. (applause)"

"Blair and Stassen will have to concede, after our CIO witnesses are through, that the AFL may have written your names down in their books, but that the CIO has the men."

"If any Tobin stool pigeon is in this meeting, go back and tell the AFL that the CIO came in here to WIN this battle. (prolonged applause)"

**Arlene Glynn Pledges Aid**  
Arlene Glynn, militant leader of the CIO Electrical Workers Union Local 1140, told the 544-CIO membership that Local 1140 is solidly behind the drivers. "Our members work in the garages and

machine shops of Minneapolis. We feel that the drivers affiliating to the CIO is the best way to unify the labor movement and win bigger pay checks and better working conditions."

"We machinists know what it is to suffer in an AFL union. We have faced all the tricks the AFL bureaucrats resort to behind the backs of the workers."

"Local 544-CIO is not the only union that has been victimized by the Stassen Labor Law. Our union has been hampered by the Stassen law ever since it was enacted in 1939. At the Lewis Bolt & Nut company, where we face a strike, Stassen has used the law to help the boss fight us."

"We know how unfair Blair is. Blair is nothing but a business agent for the employers. Blair connives behind our backs. At one company where we were pressing for a wage increase, Blair went out to the shop and told the men that the boss couldn't afford a wage increase. That is how 'fair' Blair is. (applause)"

"Local 1140 will assist you financially to the best of our ability. If you want to know what the CIO does for its members, just ask the mechanics and machinists of Minneapolis. In the CIO you have a freedom and a democracy you can't find in the AFL. Tell the people of Minneapolis that you are CIO members. The CIO is worth fighting for. I know you will win your fight." (applause)

**A CORRECTION:** In a leaflet distributed by Local 544-CIO advertising the Monday special membership meeting, it was erroneously stated that Brother Arlene Glynn is head of the CIO Electrical Workers Local 1139. Brother Glynn is leader of the CIO Electrical Workers Local 1140.

Brother Farrell Dobbs started his talk by holding up a cap he had borrowed from a union member as he came to the speakers' stand.

"This cap tells a story in itself," Dobbs said. "On the left you see the Local 544-CIO button. Beside it you see an old Local 574 button issued in 1935. The Local 574 button is not an AFL button. It was issued at a time when this union was fighting Tobin tooth and nail just as we are today. The brother who wears these buttons shows that he understands very clearly what this fight is about."

**Scores Pay Dues**  
Scores of men after the meeting lined up at the dues table to pay their dues, while others told union staff members of their desire to testify before Blair and made appointments to appear at the hearings.

Minneapolis is going to be a CIO Union Town!

4-BURNER Universal gas range, left-hand oven. Good condition. Very cheap. GR. 7921.

### Driver Keeps Record of Union Gains

Cliff Smith, awning worker at the Hoigaard Tent & Awning company, has kept an accounting since 1936 of the gains won for him by Local 544. These figures show that the union has won him an increase of OVER FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR.

As an answer to Casey's idiotic lies about the militancy and effectiveness of Local 544, we publish the yearly income record of Smith, one of thousands of 544 members who have made as great or greater union gains:

Year	Income
1936	\$1,312.51
1937	1,404.66
1938	1,576.37
1939	1,711.81
1940	1,721.10

Even More for Brett

Steward Ray Brett has won even more substantial gains through Local 544 since 1934, gains totaling over SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR. The year of the great 1934 strikes, Brother Brett earned exactly \$1,028, which was high pay for the industry then. In 1940 his yearly earnings totaled \$1,771.

"And that's only half the story," Ray said. "Along with the lower pay, I was getting grey hair. Now thanks to union protection and seniority, I am doing the kind of work I like to do."

"The inside men at Hoigaard's have made even larger gains," Brett concluded. "In 1935 they were getting about 25c hourly. Thanks to Local 544 and no thanks to Tobin, today these men get 65c an hour their first season and 70c hourly the second season."

War causes many horrors And has its costly ruins, But you can always find a sequel In the work of Tobin's goons.

I've studied modern history And deciphered ancient ruins, But I've discovered nothing To compare with Tobin's goons.

I have read of many shootings In dives and cheap saloons, By men who'd taken lessons From some of Tobin's goons.

A nurse can live quite safely In many hotel rooms, Unless she is encountered By a band of Tobin's goons.

Remember, all you drivers Who are seeking yearly boons, That you will never get them By supporting Tobin's goons. —By a Driver

## Drivers in Austin Build CIO Fortress

AUSTIN, MINN.—The Austin Drivers & Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 778-CIO further strengthened its position in the motor transport and building construction industry Sunday when it absorbed over two hundred building trades workers who had previously been organized under a special state CIO charter. Plans were discussed for an all-out drive to make Austin a 100 per cent

with the Park Motor company July 24th increasing wages for all employees 5c hourly. Contracts have been presented all lumber and coal dealers calling for a straight \$7.50 weekly increase.

Since June 15th a squad of Tobin's goons has sukked around Austin seeking to use violent methods to drive the workers back into the antiquated AFL set-up in the motor transport and construction industry. However, today this industry is now an impenetrable CIO fortress, the forerunner of similar developments in strong CIO towns throughout the nation.

Tobin's violent and vicious methods have earned him the title of "labor's most unscrupulous enemy" among Austin workers.

The union signed a contract

### Casey Tries to Trade Off Wage Demands of Membership For AFL Recognition by Bosses — Piddling 6c Raise Already More than Wiped Out by Price Rise

When the membership of 544, back in May, approved the idea of a sharp increase in hourly wages, it did not endorse such proposals with the idea that the union should enter into a process of horse-trading.

On the contrary, our members, and the wives of our members, already then felt keenly the pressing need for

a SUBSTANTIAL increase in wages—not Casey's six cents, but a REAL increase that will help make up for the zooming cost of living.

Every Minneapolis housewife knows, without the assistance of the government graphs, that her household dollar today buys only

60 PER CENT of what it did a few months ago. The rise in ESSENTIAL COMMODITY PRICES is the GREATEST in the history of the country. What makes the situation so dangerous for labor is the fact that the price ceiling is still nowhere in sight.

If Casey had bothered to look at the AFL's Monthly Survey, he would have learned that, while wage increases amount to only 1.4 per cent for the past thirteen months, WHOLESALE PRICE INDICES show an increase of almost 18 PER CENT for the same period.

Even these figures do not paint a true picture, however. It is a fact that prices have risen as much as 5 PER CENT PER MONTH during each of the past four months. All sorts of devices and tricks are being used by retailers and wholesalers to make the public bear ALL of the burden of increased raw material prices. The Roosevelt administration last week took steps to sharply curtail installment buying, as one way of lowering living standards. Credits have been tightened. Discounts for large purchases have been either discontinued or lessened.

**Price Jump Looms**  
When the new tax program goes into effect, prices of consumers goods will take another sharp upward leap. Not only will the wage earner have to pay income taxes in the near future, but he will also have to pay all of the excess profits taxes, excise taxes, etc., which Big Business always passes along to the masses.

Still another growing cause for

price increases is seen in the osphere leap of wholesale this summer; by autumn prices will be translated in retail prices charged in the stores.

**"Ain't Seen Nothing"**  
Speaking before the convocation of the Housewares Manufacturers Association in New York recently, Henderson admitted that "we are going up. Some of you are already complaining. But of you never met that monster who destroyed families in the past war—only (High Cost of Living) has Shortages have brought him into prospect. WE WILL CEIVE OURSELVES IF WE LIEVE THAT THE COST LIVING WILL LEVEL SHORTLY."

The truth of the matter is, the substantial wage increases mandated by 544's members would, before another year passed, scarcely equalize the ward sweep of prices.

Much can be accomplished the trade unions in preventing worst burdens of inflation falling upon the shoulders of workers. But the trade union do even more by broadening struggle from the economic to political field.

**Labor Party Needed**  
On the POLITICAL FIELD, labor can defend itself from nation and place the burden of warfare where it belongs—on the shoulders of the bosses launched this war and who to gain from it.

The trade unions need a dependent Labor Party. It must force its leaders to with company unionism in power to sever connections with the controlled Republican and cratic parties, and to launch a party based upon the union movement protect from the growing attacks of bosses, can the workers pay and defend and better their and living conditions.

### Here Is the PROOF

#### Food Prices in Minneapolis Up 15% to 83% During Year

Below is a table comparing the prices of staple food commodities in Minneapolis in August, 1940, and in August, 1941. Prices are based upon the regular Friday and Saturday special as they appeared in the Shopping News. The information was compiled by a staff member of the Minneapolis Labor School. Other charts are now being prepared dealing with price trends in rent and clothing costs in Minneapolis.

The reader can readily understand that the measly hourly wage increase cooked up by Sellout Casey and the bosses and Blair is utterly inadequate to meet the huge increases in the cost of living.

Food Item	Price in Aug., 1940	Price in Aug., 1941	% Increase
Sugar (10 pounds)	.51c	.59c	.08c
Eggs (Grade A, in cartons)	.21	.34	.13
90-92 Score Butter (1-lb. roll)	.26	.37	.11
Land-o-Lakes Butter (1-lb.)	.34	.41	.07
Cheese (2-lb. box)	.42	.55	.13
Lard (1-lb. carton)	.07	.12	.05
Pork Loin Roast (1-lb.)	.16	.25	.09
Spare Ribs (per pound)	.10	.14	.04
Pork Chops (center cuts)	.25	.36	.11
Smoked Shankless Picnic (½-lb.)	.15	.21	.06
Branded Bacon (½-lb.)	.25	.38	.13
No. 1 Sugar Cured Bacon	.12	.22	.10
Smoked Ham	.19	.29	.10
Bacon Squares	.10	.16	.06
Short Ribs	.10	.13	.03
Salmon (No. 1 tall red)	.25	.29	.04
24½-lb. Flour	.75	.93	.18
Wisconsin Colby Cheese	.16	.21	.05
Fat Hens (per pound)	.17	.25	.08
Broilers (per lb.)	.23	.27	.04
Coffee (2-lb. can)	.48	.56	.08
Lamb Shoulder Roast	.17	.22	.05
Lamb Breast	.07	.09	.02
Leg of Lamb	.22	.27	.05
Canned Milk (14½-oz.)	.06	.08	.02
Celery (2 bunches)	.10	.15	.05

### UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO

SEPTEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE	Thursday, September 18—Tent and Awning; Newspaper, 10 a. m.
Monday, September 1—Labor Day	Friday, September 19—Job Stewards
Wednesday, September 3—Sausage; Petroleum	Monday, September 22—Spring Water
Thursday, September 4—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners	Tuesday, September 23—Building Material
Friday, September 5—Job Stewards	Thursday, September 25—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drugs and Produce
Monday, September 8—General Membership	Friday, September 26—Cold Storage
Tuesday, September 9—Lumber	Sociality Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. All regular meetings start at 8 p. m. unless otherwise indicated.
Wednesday, September 10—Market; Wholesale Liquor	Ice Drivers—2nd Monday, September 8th, Day Laborers
Friday, September 12—Wholesale Grocery	Warehousemen—2nd Tuesday, September 9th, Stewards, 4th Monday, September 22
Sunday, September 14—Over-the-road city pickup, dockmen and road drivers who come under the area contract, 2 p. m.	
Monday, September 15—Furniture Stores; Coal; Paper and Printing	